

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6335

BILL NUMBER: HB 1384

NOTE PREPARED: Dec 13, 2002

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Bachelor Social Worker Licensing Degree.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Bischoff

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: ☒ **GENERAL**
☒ **DEDICATED**
☐ **FEDERAL**

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: The bill provides that a person who has a bachelor in social work degree and meets certain other requirements may be licensed as a bachelor social worker.

Effective Date: July 1, 2003.

Explanation of State Expenditures: There could be additional expenses involved, including the printing costs for applications and postage, for issue of the new proposed license. It is believed the Health Professions Bureau (HPB) would be able to absorb these expenditures within their budget.

There may be a need for the HPB to employ additional staff for the administration of the basic social worker license. As of October 2002, the HPB had 51 authorized full-time staff members. Three of the positions are vacant program coordinator-5 positions, two are secretary-3 positions, and one is a clerk typist-5 position. A new COMOT-3 position would require expenditures of \$30,578 in FY 2003 and \$29,931 in FY 2004. If an additional COMOT-3 position were required to administer bachelor's social worker licenses, it would take three times as many applicants to recoup the cost of the position based on a social worker license fee of \$50.

Ultimately, the source of funds and resources required to satisfy the requirements of this bill will depend upon legislative and administrative actions.

Explanation of State Revenues: Based on an average growth rate of 2.9%, approximately 212 bachelor's degrees in social work are projected to be awarded from Indiana's public universities in FY 2003 and 219 are projected in FY 2004. Bachelors degrees awarded in social work from **FY 1990 to FY 1999 have averaged 180** per year.

The proposal allows the Social Worker, Marriage and Family Therapist, and Mental Health Counselor Board to establish a fee for licensing of bachelor's social workers. (Currently, a bachelor's degree plus two years of additional experience are required before a license in social work may be obtained.)

The fiscal impact is dependent on the fee structure established by the Board. The current fee for a social worker license is \$50 for the application/issuance fee, \$25 for a temporary fee, and \$10 for out-of-state certification. As of October 21, 2002, 2,393 social workers were licensed to practice in Indiana. If the Board based the fee for a bachelor's social worker license on the current fees for a social worker license, the State could see a revenue increase of approximately \$10,550 in the first year of implementation.

The estimate assumes that all new Indiana bachelor's graduates would apply for a bachelor's social worker license, and that projections of bachelor graduates of social work hold. The estimate does not account for the number of out-of-state graduates that may apply for the bachelor's social worker license, nor bachelor's graduates in social work from private universities in Indiana. Any license fee revenue would be deposited into the State General Fund.

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Indiana Health Professions Bureau; Social Worker, Marriage and Family Therapist, and Mental Health Counselor Board.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources: Jeffrey Weber, Indiana Commission on Higher Education, (317) 464-4400; Health Professions Bureau.

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